



## Public Health and Partners Activate for a Very Busy Summer and Fall

Shortly after the Fourth of July holiday, Public Health will be activating the Area Command Center in preparation of West Nile Virus outbreaks, H1N1 flu, (on top of typical seasonal flu) and Howard Hansen Dam flood threats (see follow up articles on pages two and five of this newsletter). The next several months will be the most challenging for Public Health since the Public Health Preparedness program began in 2002. Currently, Public Health is coordinating efforts across the Department as well as with its response partners on several fronts:

- evacuation and medical needs sheltering in response to massive flooding in affected areas from Howard Hansen Dam
- identifying sites for alternate care facilities and medicine dispensing sites for flu outbreaks
- recruiting and training Public Health and PHRC volunteers in specific emergency response teams
- vaccination sites to support mass vaccination campaign for a new H1N1 vaccine this fall

## Update on Alternate Care Facility (ACF) Planning

The alternate care facility clinical team and committee have begun planning the deployment of the ACF in a modular fashion. Modules are based around a 50 bed inpatient nursing care module with support in the form of an acute care module, administrative module, supply module, pharmacy module, signage module and feeding module (if required). This is in an effort to improve deployment and simplify a scalable response in support of mutual aid commitments. The planning group is working with NYS Department of Health on developing shared standards on support of hydration, dispensing operations, triage and oxygen therapy. Equipment and regional supplies are being uploaded into the Public Health inventory tracking system with the intent of improving tracking and inventory management and as well as building a database that will allow migration into a regional electronic resource module.

## Save the Date!

### PHRC New Volunteer Orientation

September 21, 2009

If you are a volunteer who has not attended an in-person orientation, see page 3 for information on the next scheduled orientation.

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## AmeriCorps and MRC Collaboration

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects more than 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve with more than 3,000 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations. Since 1994, more than 400,000 men and women have provided needed assistance to millions of Americans across the nation through their AmeriCorps service.

This year, once again, Washington State Medical Reserve Corps programs and AmeriCorps have teamed up to provide opportunities for volunteers to serve in public health, medical reserve corps programs. Public Health and the Public Health Reserve Corps program is excited to welcome two new AmeriCorps volunteers this August to assist with recruitment and outreach efforts, training, and medical operations.

Welcome Tien Ho, a future pharmacy student from the Seattle area, and Lauren Blesi, a recent Central Washington University graduate.

## Best Wishes to Kevin!

Over the past year, Kevin Lawson has served as AmeriCorps volunteer taking leadership in Public Health Reserve Corps volunteer recruitment and outreach. He has done amazing work and assisted the program enormously! Kevin is off to Phila to attend Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine. THANK YOU and BEST WISHES KEVIN!!!!

## H1N1 Swine Influenza A Response 2009

**April 26 - May 15, 2009**

On April 26, 2009 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declared a Public Health Emergency due to the rapid spread of a novel flu virus, A/H1N1. In response to this situation, Public Health – Seattle & King County activated King County Health and Medical Area Command on Monday, April 27, 2009, with the broad response goals of:

- Providing education to the public and community partners about the nature and potential threats of Swine Influenza A (H1N1)
- Assessing the functionality of the healthcare system
- Ensuring that local government, businesses and community based organizations can maintain continuity of business operations

The 19 day H1N1 activation was the longest and most complex since the inception of PHSKC's Preparedness program in 2002. From its emergency operations center in downtown Seattle, PHSKC activated seven major response functions, including health system surveillance, mass dispensing, laboratory testing and others. New response capabilities were tested, such as receipt of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), a 24/7 regional medical call center, prophylaxis of first responders, and outreach to child care centers, schools and elected officials.

Brief summary of the activation:

- Over 200 Public Health staff, 40 Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers, and liaisons from healthcare and emergency management partners had contributed to the effort
- Over 2,000 individuals and organizations had received regular situation updates from Area Command
- Over 2700 courses of antivirals were dispensed at mass dispensing sites

Significant impacts of the event included:

- Visits to emergency departments and ambulatory care providers by worried well patients strained the capacity of our healthcare system
- Scarcity of medical resources such as lab media, Personal Protective Equipment, antivirals, and hand sanitizer
- Stockpiling of antivirals by individuals, which in turn limited the ability of symptomatic patients to fill valid prescriptions

Highlights of Health and Medical Area Command's response to impacts:

- Assessing and assuring availability of scarce medical resources in the community
- Receiving the Strategic National Stockpile
- Mounting a rapid public education campaign that included translated health messages
- Operating temporary antiviral dispensing clinics

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## PHRC Training Opportunities

### **Northwest Citizen Corps Expo:** *Learning Together as a Nation*

Saturday, August 22, 2009, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Location: North Bend, WA

More information at <http://www.nwcitizencorpsexpo.com/>

### **PHRC New Volunteer Orientation**

September 21, 2009, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Location: PHSKC, Chinook Building, Ground Floor, Training Room 121, 401 Fifth Ave, Seattle

You must sign up by e-mailing [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov). A confirmation will be sent to you 1-2 weeks prior to training.

### **Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Surge Response Team Training**

(late) September, 2009 specific dates to be determined

PHRC volunteers whom are experienced and qualified in epidemiology, biostatistics, research, or disease investigation are invited to join this surge response team training. Training covers background in epidemiology, team member job description including skills and duties, and response team tools.

Location: PHSKC, specific location to be determined

### **Vaccinator Skills Refresher Training**

(mid) October, 2009 specific dates to be determined

For licensed medical volunteers who don't normally provide vaccination in their daily work can brush up on their vaccination skills in preparation for the mass vaccination flu clinics in November.

Location: PHSKC, specific location to be determined

### **Mass Vaccination Flu Clinics**

Saturday, November 14, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

In response to H1N1 and regular seasonal flu, Public Health is setting up two flu vaccination clinics. Recruitment begins now for all medical and non-medical volunteers to fill various types of logistics, support and medical roles.

Locations: Parkwood Elementary School, Shoreline, WA and Highline Community Center, Kent, WA

You must sign up by e-mailing [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov). A confirmation will be sent to you 1-2 weeks prior to training.

### **Hot Topics in Preparedness**

A monthly, online, hour-long forum on topics of crucial importance to public health practice community offered by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The NWCPHP also offers a variety of training courses, exercises, and institutes. A training email list is also available for those interested in receiving ongoing updates of NWCPHP offerings. More information can be found at <http://nwcphp.org/training>.

\*Unfortunately, due to King County budget constraints, providing food or beverages for events or reimbursement for parking is no longer allowed by Public Health. Volunteers are, however, welcome to bring in their own food and beverages.

## Required Training!

### National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training

PHRC volunteers are required to fulfill two specific NIMS online training courses upon registration:

1. IS-100.HC Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals:  
<https://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is100HC.asp>

2. IS-700 Introduction to the National Incident Management System:  
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

Volunteers should email copies of completion certificates to [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).

## Recruitment Help!

In anticipation of a very busy summer and fall, we have stepped up PHRC volunteer recruitment efforts.

Public Health staff and leadership have been asked to distribute at least 5 PHRC recruitment cards each over the next few weeks.

PHRC volunteers will be challenged with the same request. If you haven't already, volunteers will be receiving a letter in the mail along with 5 PHRC recruitment cards each asking volunteers to distribute them within their already scheduled work meetings, neighborhood gatherings, community events and activities, etc.

Should volunteers need additional cards please e-mail [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).

We thank you in advance for spreading the word and helping to build the PHRC volunteer base!

## Green River Basin (Howard Hanson Dam) Flood Plan: Addressing Possible Increase in Flood Risk

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that storage capacity at the Corps' Howard A. Hanson Dam on the Green River will be restricted indefinitely, which increases the potential risk of flooding to the Green River Valley below the dam in the event of a major rainstorm. King County, the King County Flood Control District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, Tukwila and Seattle have taken action to ensure communication channels are in place to help protect residents and their property.

The Corps is in the process of evaluating newly discovered depressions on the right abutment at the Howard Hanson Dam, which provides flood risk reduction and water storage on the Green River. Until that assessment can be completed, the Corps has determined it would be prudent to lower the maximum pool level for flood storage from a reservoir elevation of 1,206 feet above sea level to a lower level.

This means the dam will be unable to hold as much water behind the dam during heavy rains or snowmelt and more water will need to be released than in the past, which could increase the risk of flooding in local communities. It's important to note that there is high confidence in the current integrity of the dam - the Corps believes there is no risk of dam failure. As a precaution, however, the Corps, King County, and city officials of potentially impacted

## Protecting the Health and Safety of PHRC Volunteers

Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers have been an integral part of Public Health and King County emergency and disaster response! Protecting the health and safety of PHRC volunteers is high priority which is why we have one of the most extensive volunteer registration, credentialing, training and alerting medical reserve corps programs around. When volunteers sign up to be a part of the PHRC specific requirements are asked to be met within the first month of acceptance (and some of these requirements are federally mandated).

Enclosed in the volunteer's acceptance packet are four forms that need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. These forms include:

- Background Investigation Data/Authorization Form
- King County Office of Emergency Management Emergency Worker Application
- Public Health Reserve Corps Immunization Record
- Workforce Confidentiality Agreement (HIPPA)

If you no longer have these forms or never received a packet please e-mail [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).

Additionally, Public Health Reserve Corps volunteers are also required to complete the following trainings within the first month of acceptance:

- A self-study Tuberculosis and Bloodborne Pathogens Training module.
- Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals (IS-100.HC) online training through FEMA.
- National Incident Management System an Intro (IS-700) online training through FEMA.

### Licensed Volunteers:

In addition to the above listed forms, licensed volunteers (MD's, RN's ect) are asked to send in a photo copy of their professional license, which will be filed with our Credentials Office.

For convenience, a pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelope to send in hardcopy items is available to volunteers that need to send in the above paper work. For protection, these forms must be completed before volunteers can participate in drills or be deployed during an emergency. All volunteers are also asked to attend an orientation session to learn more about Public Health's response in emergencies and disasters and specific types of roles volunteers could serve.

Thank you in advance for your compliance! Any questions should be sent to [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).



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### H1N1 Response

Health and Medical Area Command deactivated on May 15, 2009, when remaining H1N1 activities could be managed via normal PHSKC and partner operations. The response highlighted strengths in the region's health and medical response structure, and also exposed some areas for improvement which will assist PHSKC in adopting and updating its preparedness plan to better respond in the future, as early as this fall.

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### Green River Basin Flood Plan

areas are working together to develop plans for preparing for and responding to the possible impacts of a flood event.

Public safety is the number-one priority. This Web page is dedicated to the flood planning effort and will serve as a primary communication link for accessing current information and resources for personal preparedness [http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/FloodPlan\\_GRiverBasin.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare/FloodPlan_GRiverBasin.aspx)

In addition to repairs, King County, including Public Health, and city leaders are developing response activities. Preplanning and site identification for medical needs shelters, general population shelters and evacuation planning are ongoing. Any response will require the support of our volunteer partners and King County Public Health Reserve Corps.

### Flu Comic Book

To assist King County prepare for and learn about influenza Public Health - Seattle & King County has developed a 12-page comic book on pandemic flu in multiple languages. Targeting readers of all ages, the comic's story tells the tale of a family's experience during the 1918 influenza pandemic. It also explains the threat of pandemic flu today, illustrates what to expect during a pandemic (such as school closures), and offers tips to help households prepare and respond.

For more information about this comic please visit:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemic-flu/comicbook.aspx>

## PHRC Volunteer Needs

- Licensed Medical Volunteers:
  - o Lab Technicians
  - o Mental Health Providers
  - o Paramedics
  - o Pharmacists
  - o Physicians and Physician Assistants
  - o Psychiatrists
  - o Registered Nurses
  - o and many more!
- Non-Medical Volunteers:
  - o Call Center Operators
  - o General/Administrative Support
  - o Hospitality Workers
  - o Interpreters
  - o Logistics Workers
  - o Spiritual Care Workers
  - o Any adult who wants to help!

For more information about the Public Health Reserve Corps, including how to apply and volunteer job descriptions, visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/health/phrc](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/phrc) or email [phrc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:phrc@kingcounty.gov).

